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PCT) SE96/01698

NEW CLAIMS

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1. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres, characterized by dissolving a polysaccharide in a solvent, and spraying the solution into a bath which contains a water-miscible organic solvent and a cross-linker.
2. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres in accordance with Claim 1, characterized by stretching, rolling-up, drying and cutting the polysaccharide fibres after the bath.

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3. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized in that the organic solvent is an alcohol or a ketone.

A

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B3*

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4. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to Claim 3, characterized in that the organic solvent is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol or acetone.

A

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B4*

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5. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres in accordance with any one of the preceding Claims, characterized in that the cross-linker is a polyelectrolyte.

A

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B5*

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6. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to Claim 5, characterized in that the cross-linker is polyvinylamine or Polybrene® (hexadimethrinbromide).

A

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7. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to any one of Claims 1-4, characterized in that the cross-linker is a salt where the cation in the salt is a metal ion.

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8. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to Claim 7,
 characterized in that the cation in the salt is divalent, trivalent or quadrivalent.

5 9. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to Claim 8,
 characterized in that the cation in the salt is calcium, magnesium, iron, aluminium
 or zirconium.

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10. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to any one of Claims
 7-9, characterized in that the anion in the metal salt is chloride.

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11. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to any one of the
 preceding Claims, characterized in that the polysaccharide is comprised of
 carboxymethyl cellulose, starch, cellulose xanthane, gelan, chitin, chitosan, guar gum
 or alginate.

Claim 1

12. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres in accordance with any one of the
 preceding Claims, characterized by cross-linking the fibre covalently in a following
 stage.

Claim 1

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13. A polysaccharide fibre, characterized by having been produced in accordance
 with any one of the preceding Claims.

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14. A polysaccharide fibre according to claim 13, characterized in that the fibre has
 been solvent-spun and has a degree of substitution greater than 0.35, is cross-linked,
 and insoluble, but swellable, in water.

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~~15. An absorbent structure in an absorbent article, such as a diaper, an incontinence guard or a sanitary napkin, characterized in that the absorbent structure includes polysaccharide fibres having been produced in accordance with any one of~~

poly saccharide

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